



Suwannee County Sheriff's Office

General Order

11.07 - School Guardian Program

PUB: 07-01-2018

STATUS: CURRENT

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08-01-2018

RESCINDS: NEW

A. PURPOSE: The purpose of this Policy is to establish guidelines in the selection, training, responsibilities and duties of authorized employees of the Suwannee County School Board who participate in the Coach Aaron Feis School Guardian Program as designated Guardians on the campuses of the Suwannee County School District.

B. SCOPE: This Policy shall apply to all Suwannee County School Board employees who are appointed by the Sheriff as School Guardians, herein referred to as Guardians, and participate in the Sheriff's School Guardian Program, herein referred to as Guardian Program. A Guardian has no authority to act in any law enforcement capacity EXCEPT to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant incident on a school campus.

C. POLICY: The Suwannee County Sheriff's Office along with the Suwannee County Superintendent of Schools with the concurrence of the Suwannee County School Board are dedicated to the development and implementation of the Coach Aaron Feis School Guardian Program for the protection of students, staff and visitors against an active assailant who pose an immediate deadly threat through a reduced response time in engaging the assailant. This agreement shall outline the duties and responsibilities of each party and participants.

D. PROCEDURES

1. APPLICANT SELECTION

- A. Each applicant shall be recommended by the School Board and proposed applicants will be forwarded to the Sheriff for review and recommendation for the Program.
- B. An oral interview of the applicant conducted by the Sheriff or his designee(s) shall be conducted.
- C. After review by the Sheriff he will approve the candidate(s) for the Program.

2. INITIAL APPLICANT TRAINING

- A. Each applicant shall comply with the provisions set for in Florida Statue 30.15 to include:
 1. Holding a valid license issued under s. 790.06



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2. Completing 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission-certified instructors, which must include:
 - a. Eighty (80) hours of firearms instruction based on the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than associated with academy training. Program participants must achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.
 - b. Sixteen (16) hours of instruction in precision pistol.
 - c. Eight (8) hours of discretionary shooting instruction using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.
 - d. Eight (8) hours of instruction in active shooter or assailant scenarios.
 - e. Eight (8) hours of instruction in defensive tactics.
 - f. Twelve (12) hours of instruction in legal issues.
3. Passing a psychological evaluation administered by a psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and submitting the results of the evaluation to the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office.
4. Submitting to and passing an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s. 112.0455 and the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office
5. Successfully complete at least twelve (12) hours of a certified nationally recognized diversity training program.
6. **ON-GOING TRAINING**
 - A. Guardians shall demonstrate proficiency and qualify annually in the use of their approved weapon and must qualify with at least an 85% score on an approved FDLE course of fire.
 - B. Guardians shall attend firearm training programs within the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office throughout the year.



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1. Firearm training and qualification shall be scheduled as to not to interfere with normal school functions.
- C. Failure to qualify with an authorized firearm will result in immediately scheduled remedial training for that Guardian. The Guardian shall not be authorized to carry any firearm while on campus or participate in the Guardian Program until they demonstrate proficiency and pass the qualification course of fire with an acceptable score.
- D. If the Guardian is unable to qualify after remedial training then they shall be removed from the Guardian Program, and return any issued weapons and equipment.
- E. All Guardian training records Guardians shall be kept by the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office - Training Coordinator.
- F. All training and qualification shall be conducted by CJSTC certified instructors of Suwannee County Sheriff's Office.

7. AUTHORIZED FIREARMS AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Guardians shall only carry weapons approved by the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office.
- B. All weapons must have a fluorescent green coloring applied to the weapon (Ceracote ® H-168Q Zombie Green) for immediate identification by first responding officers on scene.
- C. Approved weapons must be carried concealed in a holster approved by the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office.
- D. Guardians shall carry two loaded extra magazines at all times.
- E. Only duty quality ammunition approved by the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office shall be carried.



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- F. If the approved weapon has a manual safety, the Guardian may carry the weapon in either the "on safe" or "off safe" position at their discretion.
- G. No modifications shall be made to the weapon without the approval of the Sheriff or his designee.
- H. All weapons must be made available to the Sheriff or his designee for inspection at any time to ensure the condition of the weapon and ammunition.
- I. Guardians are allowed to carry their issued weapons while off campus and during non-working hours in accordance to F.S. 790.06.
- J. Guardians may be required to reimburse the Sheriff's Office for any property or equipment that is damaged or lost through negligence or misconduct.

8. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

- A. Guardians are subject to the General Orders and written directives of the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office while participating in the program.
- B. Guardians are authorized to, and shall carry approved weapons, concealed on their person at all times while on a school campus in an approved holster.
- C. Guardians will not be granted authority to effect any arrest or take any law enforcement actions unless it is in response to an active assailant on a Suwannee County School District campus.
- D. Guardians are only authorized to deploy their approved weapons when the Guardian reasonably believes an active assailant is on campus and posing an immediate deadly threat to human life.
- E. Guardians shall be physically and emotionally capable to perform the duties and responsibilities set forth in Florida Statutes, Suwannee County Sheriff's Office and Suwannee County School District Policies.



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- F. Guardians shall make every effort to remain anonymous as a member of the Guardian Program.
- G. Guardians shall carry their issued Florida Concealed Weapon Permit on them at all times while carrying a weapon on campus and participating in the Guardian Program.

9. GUARDIAN TERMINATION

- A. Guardians are appointed at will by the Sheriff and may be removed from the program by the Sheriff for any reason, including but not limited to:
 - 1. A Guardian is arrested, or criminal charges are filed against them.
 - 2. A Guardian is served as the Respondent of an Injunction for Protection.
 - 3. A Guardian is placed in a facility for mental health treatment or evaluation or similar circumstance in any State.
 - 4. A Guardian is served as the respondent of a Risk Protection Order.
 - 5. A Guardian fails to submit to or fails a random drug test administered by the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office or Suwannee County School District.
 - 6. A Guardian violates any Sheriff's Office Policy or School Board Employee Code of Conduct rules or any other applicable policies.
- B. Guardians shall immediately notify the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office Guardian Program Lieutenant of any arrest or notice that they are being charged with a crime, involuntary or voluntary admission under the Baker Act, or if they have been served with an injunction for protection. Failure to make this notification within a reasonable time frame will result in termination from the Guardian Program.
- C. Upon dismissal, the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office shall immediately notify the appropriate staff at the Suwannee County School District of their removal from the Guardian Program.



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- D. Upon termination the Guardian shall relinquish all issued weapons and equipment to the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office.

- E. A Guardian may resign from the program at any time without explanation. Once a Guardian resigns from the program, they will longer be permitted to carry a weapon on a school campus.

APPROVED:

SAM ST JOHN
SHERIFF, SUWANNEE COUNTY